

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		REPORT
COUNTRY	<u>East Germany</u>	
TOPIC	<u>Military Activity in the Area of Mechanized Division Potsdam and KVP</u>	
	<u>Training Grounds East of Kletz</u>	
EVALUATION	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u>[REDACTED]</u>
DATE OF CONTENT	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	
DATE OBTAINED	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	DATE PREPARED <u>26 August 1954</u>
REFERENCES		
PAGES	<u>2</u> ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS	<u>This is UNEVALUATED</u>	

1. On 11 and 12 July, elements of Mechanized Division Potsdam were transferred to the area of the Elbe River southwest of Berlin, allegedly because of flood danger. From 19 to 23 July, elements of the division, presumably of Mechanized Regiment Potsdam, held a motorized practice march. During the night of 30 July, the bulk of troop units of the division stationed in Potsdam conducted combat firing practice in the Loebnitz area. The exercise involved infantry, tanks, AF artillery, and artillery. 1
2. On 27 and 28 July and on 3 August, KVP troops in the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam engaged in basic training and firing practice. Rifle and submachine gun practice at platoon and company level was conducted outside the installation. Two SP guns of type SU-85 or SU-100 were parked in the barracks yard.
3. On 9 July, three 75.2-mm guns and, on 27 July, 6 x 37-mm AA guns, were seen in the Garde-Du-Corps Kaserne in Potsdam. On 31 July, the installation quartered an estimated 500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. 2
4. On 31 July, about 200 officer candidates wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen in the Leibgardehusaren Kaserne in Potsdam. On the same day, 50 soldiers were allegedly detached to Mechanized Division Potsdam and 50 men were newly admitted to the school. 3
5. On 16 July, a company, presumably of Mechanized Regiment Potsdam, practiced advanced combat practice firing with rifles, submachine guns, and light machine guns at movable targets on the firing range at Herrmannswerder at the northern tip of Templin Lake.
6. Major Muench (fma) was mentioned as supply officer of Mechanized Division Potsdam.
7. Colonel Lewerenz, head of the AAA officer school in Oranienburg, stated on 12 July, that the students were at Rerik for three weeks for AAA firing at towed sleeve targets. He further said that he succeeded with his plan to have only high-school graduates admitted to the school. 4
8. On 8 July, the bulk of the AAA officer school Oranienburg was transferred to Ruegen Island for exercises. They returned on 24 July. 4

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

9. On 12 and 13 July, troops in the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg were again seen training with 18 AA guns. Small units with field equipment, tanks, armored personnel carriers, and BA-64 armored scout cars were seen leaving the installation. Tanks and armored scout cars practiced driving in the woods southeast of Oranienburg. About 20 KVP soldiers practiced aiming with AA guns.
10. In mid-July, the names of the following officers of Mechanized Division Potsdam became known:
Colonel Ernst (fnu), division commander with the office in Potsdam II;
Colonel Riedel (fnu), chief of staff;
Lieutenant Colonel Kittelmann (fnu), deputy political officer;
Major Menzel (fnu), signal officer;
Major Wichmann (fnu), chief of staff of the 2d Mecz Regt with the office in Potsdam III;
Captain Neumann (fnu), chief of staff of the motorcycle battalion with the office in Potsdam IV;
Major Schaefer (fnu), chief of staff of Artillery Regiment Gloewen;
Captain Berger (fnu), chief of staff of the 1st Mecz Regt with the office in Oranienburg II;
Lieutenant Colonel Tittel (fnu), chief of staff of the 3d Mecz Regt in Hohenstuecken;
Captain Kappis (fnu), chief of staff of the heavy tank SP artillery regiment with the office in Burg I;
Lieutenant Colonel Schliwinski (fnu), commanding officer of the heavy tank SP artillery regiment.
The division headquarters had an estimated strength of 100 men.
11. On 20 July, an estimated 800 KVP soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches were quartered in a KVP installation in Gloewen, along the Strasse-des-Friedens, north of the Berlin-Nauen-Wittenberge railroad line, about 400 meters west of the Gloewen main road. ⁵
12. On 15 July, only a few trucks, pontoons, and soldiers were seen in the KVP quarters at Kirchmoeser. In addition to the engineer unit, another KVP unit was allegedly stationed there. ⁶
13. Between 9 and 23 July, 200 to 300 KVP soldiers organized in platoons and equipped with machine guns were frequently seen marching from their quarters on Kliestzer See toward the training area near Ferchels-Mahlitz. On 16 July, troops with 12 pneumatic rafts, 6 motorboats, and 5 amphibious cars practiced landing on Kliestzer See against a simulated enemy group. On 23 July, about 30 three-sectional pontoons, 40 pneumatic rafts, and 10 assault boats were seen just south of the quarters. ⁷
14. The training grounds east of Kliest was being enlarged. Eight gun bunkers were erected just east of the Steckelsdorf-Schollene road. On 10 July, troops for the first time practiced firing from the bunkers toward practice targets erected in a 2-km clearing. On 12 July, about 800 soldiers, about 30 tanks, about 30 guns, and about 120 trucks were detrained. On 15 July, a truck convoy of about 15 vehicles with approximately 300 men was seen en route to the training area from the direction of Steckelsdorf. Exercises were allegedly conducted mostly at night and in the early morning hours. ⁷
15. In late July, a railroadman stated that a cantonment and KVP tent camp were located in the woods between Wudicke and Schmetsdorf and that large-scale entraining and detraining operations were frequently made at Wudicke railroad station. ⁸
16. On the evening of 30 July, 9 SP guns were entrained at Altstadt railroad station northwest of Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken for shipment to an undetermined destination.

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